

DATELINE NO. 95 NEW YORK
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COMPUTERS TODAY AND TOMORROW
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: DATELINE: NEW YORK, ANOTHER IN THE SERIES OF VOA REPORTS ON PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES. TODAY, A REPORT ON THE LARGEST GATHERING OF COMPUTER EXPERTS AND EQUIPMENT EVER ASSEMBLED IN THIS COUNTRY. THE THEME: COMPUTERS TODAY AND TOMORROW.

VOICE: MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED AMERICAN FIRMS DISPLAYED THEIR WARES AT THE FOUR-DAY EXPOSITION IN NEW YORK CITY. TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE A DAY SWARMED OVER THREE FLOORS OF THE LATEST COMPUTER EQUIPMENT. THEY SAW HIGH-SPEED PRINTERS DRAW FULL-SIZED ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS IN MINUTES AND TINY COMPUTER TERMINALS AND DISPLAY SCREENS SMALL ENOUGH TO BE SQUEEZED INTO A BRIEFCASE. THERE WERE COMPUTERS THAT COULD DO FIVE MILLION COMPUTATIONS IN ONE-EIGHTIETH OF A SECOND. THERE WAS A COMPUTERIZED CASH REGISTER THAT ACTUALLY "READS" THE PRICE OF THE PURCHASED ITEM ELECTRONICALLY. THERE WERE COMPUTER-ASSISTED MACHINES TO TEACH THE DEAF SIGN LANGUAGE AND BLIND PEOPLE HOW TO READ MUSIC. THERE WAS EVEN A HAND-HELD "TALKING" CALCULATOR.

IT'S ESTIMATED THAT BY 1986 EIGHT MILLION COMPUTER TERMINALS WILL BE IN USE. IN THE UNITED STATES. FEW AREAS OF OUR LIVES WILL BE IMMUNE FROM COMPUTERS' IMPACT. DOCTOR STANLEY WINKLER IS THE MANAGER OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY AT THE IBM CORPORATION -- AN INDUSTRY LEADER. HE DIRECTED THE COMPUTER CONFERENCE. DOCTOR WINKLER DESCRIBED WHAT HE BELIEVES IS HAPPENING AS A RESULT OF THE COMPUTER EXPLOSION:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- WINKLER

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"IF YOU LOOK BACK IN THE VARIOUS REVOLUTIONS THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE WORLD IN THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS, YOU SEE WE'VE ESSENTIALLY HAD A REVOLUTION IN LOCOMOTION...IN THE MODES OF TRANSPORT. / I THINK WHAT YOU'RE SEEING NOW IS THE BEGINNING OF A REVOLUTION IN THE WAY OF THINKING. FOR EXAMPLE, IN OUR OWN SOCIETY NOW, HAND CALCULATORS HAVE BECOME SO REDUCED IN PRICE THAT PEOPLE ARE NOW THINKING OF GIVING THEM TO A TWO YEAR OLD CHILD AS A TOY."

VOICE: DOCTOR CARL HAMMER, DIRECTOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AT THE SPERRY-UNIVAC COMPANY, AGREES WITH DOCTOR WINKLER THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT ADVANCEMENT IN THE WORLD OF COMPUTERS IS NOT SO MUCH THE TECHNOLOGY ITSELF AS THE WIDE POPULARITY THE COMPUTER HAS FOUND AMONG EVERY-DAY PEOPLE.

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EXPOSITION WAS A STUDENT COMPUTER EXHIBITION. YOUNGSTERS AND TEEN-AGERS SHOWED HOW THEY CAN CREATE GAMES, ART, AND SIMPLE COMPUTER SYSTEMS USING THE NEW TECHNOLOGY. DOCTOR HAMMER FINDS THIS ENCOURAGING SIGN:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- HAMMER

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"YOU'VE GOT TO REMEMBER MY AGE...I'M SIXTY-TWO. AND WHEN I LOOK AT THESE CHILDREN OF NINE AND TEN YEARS OLD AND THINK BACK TO WHAT I DID WHEN I WAS NINE AND TEN YEARS OLD IT IS IN NO WAY COMPARABLE. / I AM VERY ENCOURAGED WITH WHAT I AM SEEING. THOSE LITTLE CHILDREN ...THEY ARE PLAYING WITH COMPUTERS, PLAYING AND LEARNING. TO THEM THIS IS NOT A SECRET TECHNOLOGY. THEY FULLY UNDERSTAND IT. THEY HAVE GROWN INTO IT. AND I THINK IN ANOTHER TEN YEARS FROM NOW, BY NINETEEN EIGHTY-SIX, YOU WILL FIND THAT EVERYBODY, CERTAINLY IN THIS COUNTRY, WILL HAVE GROWN UP WITH COMPUTERS, AND WILL HAVE LOST TOTALLY THIS FEAR WHICH IS STILL PREVALENT IN SOME PARTS OF OUR SOCIETY. THE COMPUTER IS NOTHING TO BE FEARED. IT IS A VERY USEFUL TOOL...AND VERY POWERFUL, AT THAT."

VOICE: INDUSTRY SPOKESMEN SAY IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO PREDICT EXACTLY HOW COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY WILL FURTHER CHANGE THE WORLD. BUT ITS LIKELY BUSINESS WILL BE DECENTRALIZED AND

VOICE: THERE WILL BE LESS PAPER WORK. FLAT TELEVISION SCREENS MAY
(CONT'D) REPLACE TODAY'S THICK TUBES. STUDENTS WILL PROBABLY USE
MAGNETIC TAPES INSTEAD OF BOOKS TO STUDY THEIR LESSONS.
ARTISTS COULD BECOME MORE CREATIVE USING ELECTRONIC SOUNDS
AND IMAGES. THE POSSIBILITIES SEEM INFINITE. THE FOUR-
DAY CONFERENCE BROUGHT TOGETHER MANY EXPERTS TO DISCUSS
THE MORAL, LEGAL, POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.
DOCTOR WINKLER BELIEVES THIS KIND OF ANALYSIS IS A STRONG
SIGN OF THE FUTURE IMPORTANCE OF COMPUTERS.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- WINKLER

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"YOU NO LONGER HAVE A BUNCH OF TECHNICIANS SITTING AROUND
A CONFERENCE TABLE TELLING EACH OTHER HOW WONDERFUL IT'S
GOING TO BE. YOU SEE HERE IN THIS CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES
FROM LEGISLATURE. YOU SEE LAWYERS. YOU SEE DOCTORS. YOU
SEE ECONOMISTS. WE'RE TALKING TO EACH OTHER, WE'RE BREAKING
THE BARRIERS. TECHNOLOGISTS NO LONGER HAVE THE MYSTIQUE
SURROUNDING THEIR WORK. IT'S NOW UNDERSTANDABLE. AND THIS
TO ME IS THE REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENT. COMPUTER POWER IS
BECOMING ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE. / NOW, THE DEVICES WILL
BECOME SMALLER, THEY'LL BECOME CHEAPER, THEY'LL BECOME
LIGHTER, THEY'LL BECOME MORE EFFICIENT, THEY'LL BECOME
FASTER...AND ALL THESE OTHER THINGS, BUT THEY'RE HERE NOW!
IT'S NOT JUST TO AN ELITE. IT'S NOT JUST TO THE FEW. NOT
JUST TO THE INITIATE. AND THIS TO ME IS WHAT'S GOING TO
MAKE THIS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE AND TO ME THAT'S THE
ENCOURAGING SIGN." /

ANNCR: THOUGHT FROM THE 1976 NATIONAL COMPUTER CONFERENCE AND
EXPOSITION HELD RECENTLY IN NEW YORK CITY. YOU'VE BEEN
LISTENING TO DATELINE. ANOTHER IN THE SERIES OF VOA PROGRAMS
ON PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

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